

Arizona Elks News

The Arizona Elks News is an official publication of the Arizona Elks Association

July 2024



“Spreading the Joy”

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
23 July 2024



By the time you read this, our Arizona Exalted Rulers are in Austin, Texas to experience the Grand Lodge Convention. Such pageantry with the State Presidents leading the way by carrying in their flags. Yes, I was very excited to wave ours, walking by our members and hearing their cheers. I’ve been to 19 Grand Lodge Conventions (counting this one) and I love the opening ceremony. In addition to the flag presentation, we heard many reports showcasing how hard YOU all work for Elkdom. As your President, I say **THANK YOU** for all you’ve done.



There were many seminars presented this year. Some were updates on the new Accounting System, the Elks National Foundation and its benefits, Government Relations, and Public Relations. These assist our Lodges in staying up to date with how Grand Lodge tries to keep us as a charitable organization. Remember – it is our responsibility to present our Lodges as something to help the community. We are here to remember our veterans, teach children drugs are wrong, and scholarship and sports go hand in hand.

2024 has three Arizona Lodges marking their 125th Anniversary – Kingman 468, Yuma 476, and Flagstaff 499. Jimm and I were fortunate to attend Yuma’s celebration. We were given a presentation on their history. I knew they moved from another location to 32nd Street, but I found out this is their 3rd building. On their 50th Anniversary, the Grand Lodge Convention was held in Yuma. The newspaper’s front page had several articles about their Anniversary and photos ran across the top. I remember seeing the Grand Exalted Ruler, a Grand Knight, the Exalted Ruler, and two Convention Co-Chairs. Yuma was very important that year.

Continued on Page 2

**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION 2024-2025
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Sue Krausman

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

North: Larry Carver

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Rocky Davis

East: Steve Like

North: Ron Wilson

SECRETARY:

David Dean

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

South -1 Year:

Joseph H Riley, Jr. PSP

South – 2 Year:

Richard Botkin, PSP

East – 3 Year:

Michael Weishan, PSP

North -4 Year:

James R. Casacchia, PSP

West– 5 Year:

Ronald Wilson

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Shawnee Carlile

CHAPLAIN:

Giorgio Phillips

TILER:

Casey Hackett

INNER GUARD:

Anna Mineer

ASST. SECRETARY:

Gary Parsons

ASST TREASURER:

Angela Buso

ORGANIST:

Ira Cohen

“Spreading the Joy”

Continued from Page 1

On June 8th our annual Organizational Meeting was held at Phoenix 335. I feel your Arizona Elks Association Committee Chairs are prepared for another banner year. Quite a few Vice Chairs attended, and events were planned for the year. Remember, Vice Chairs will be reporting to the Exalted Ruler at the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Clinics. Making notes will help your year go smoothly. Let's make the year by going for 100% participation in the many Youth Activities and Sporting competitions. No excuses this year.

Our DD Designates will be installed on Wednesday, July 3rd. What a joy to see our four Grand Lodge representatives take their oaths. Congratulations Larry Pratt, East DD (Tempe 2251), Travis Napolitan, North DD (Page 2498), Bear Carlile, South DD (Sierra Vista 2065), and Brad Lucas, West DD (Sun City 2259). Have a wonderful year and I look forward to working with you all.

Have a safe Fourth of July. Say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem for me. Show your neighborhood how patriotic you are; proud to be an American.

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association

“Flagstaff Elks #499 Flag Day Ceremony”

Flagstaff Lodge #499 held a beautiful and moving ceremony led by member, Zachary Meier on Friday, May 14th. There were approximately 40 members and Scouts in attendance on this summer afternoon dedicated to honoring our flags through the history of our country.

Submitted by; Kathleen Cothrun



“Page Elks Lodge #2498 Attacks the Trash ”

Page Elks Lodge #2498 volunteers helped to feed over 300 people during the annual Page attacks trash event on April 20, 2024. Each year, on Earth Day, community members volunteer to pick up garbage throughout the community. Free lunch and t-shirts are provided for all who participate. Page Elks Lodge #2498 gathers together to clean up the stretch of beautiful highway near the Glen Canyon Dam and bridge that is adopted by Page Elks Lodge #2498. *Submitted by; Brenda Napolitin*



Cody Siebrecht,
Loyal Knight



Pictured left to right, Ricky Cottrell, Exalted Ruler, John Roush, Vivian Warren, Richard Bridgewater and Heather Bridgewater

“Kingman Elks Lodge #468 Run for the Wall”

It was the 34th Annual Run for the Wall with 1,235 riders in count this year (stat off the Runs website on 05/26/24). However, this was the 10th anniversary of the "Midway" group across the US. The Midway group had 297 riders making their first stop for lunch on their journey at Mother Road Harley 2501 Beverly, Kingman Az, and was fed by our ELKS 468 VSC. These riders started at the Ontario Convention Center in CA, making a few stops before getting to Kingman. In their allotted 1 hour 15 minute stop, they 468 bought, grilled and served burgers, with all the fixings, chips and drinks (drinks provided by Mother Road Harley). Our chow line is so skilled that it made feeding over 200 people lunch seem easy. The riders in this group are a lot of repeat riders. They prepare to go and line up for roll call prior to leaving but not before a picture *Submitted by; Tami Cash*



“Kingman Elks Lodge #468 Awards 11 Scholarships”

Kingman Elks Betsy and Greg Parker lead our Scholarship Committee. For our 2024 Graduates we were able to award a total of 11 Scholarships. (Everyone gets \$1000. with the exception of J. Suchowroski who received \$500.) We did this through fundraising within our lodge and lodge donations specifically for Scholarships. which total \$10,500. *Submitted by; Tami Cash*



Pictured above:
Mike Mickelson W. Larsen,
R. Warren, A. Williams,
Greg Parker



Top Picture: Betsy & Greg Parker, J. Ruelas, D. Cardenas and ER Dan Jones

Bottom Picture:
K. Patel, N. Petrauschke, Betsy Parker, L. Gustafson, L. Gross, K. Yocum, and Greg Parker

“Prescott Elks #330 Holds 2nd Annual Fishing Derby for Veterans”

On May 22, 2024, The Prescott Elks Lodge #330 held the second annual Fishing Derby for Veterans at Urban Forest Lakes Park in Prescott Valley Az.

Performing the Pledge of Allegiance for the group of 20 Vets and 13 volunteers was the Young Copper Mountain Marines, A national youth program for boys and girls ages eight through high school focused on leadership, citizenship through community service, self-discipline and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Each veteran was given a goodie bag with a hat, backpack, keychain, coupons from local establishments and a 2024 Elks Fishing Derby pin. Pins were also given to the youth.

Submitted by; Bobbie Knorr



“Tucson Elks #385 Host Memorial Day Picnic”

The Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 hosted 17 Veterans from the Tucson AZ VA Blind Rehab Center for a 2024 Memorial Day Picnic. Vets, guest, and members enjoyed bratwursts, hamburgers, beans, pasta salad and watermelon for the lunch.

Pictured at the Marana AZ Veterans Cemetery for laying of a wreath are Tucson Lodge #385 ER Richard Bernard and member Wayne Thompson *Submitted by ;John Aceves*



AZ Elks Association President Sue Krausman (sitting), and 1st gentleman Jimm with Tucson Lodge #385 1st Lady Joyce Bernard conversing with Veterans

“Tucson Elks #385 Hosts Scholarship and Music Plus Strings Event”

The Tucson Elks Lodge #385 held the annual Youth Awards Luncheon on Sunday May 5, 2024. The Scholarship and Music Plus Strings Honorees were provided a luncheon of sloppy joes, tossed salad and fresh chocolate chip cookies. Our guest speaker, Tony Mosley, gave a motivating speech to the families of the honorees. More than 20 Elk members attended the luncheon to support the high school student winners. The following students received scholarships from our Lodge totaling \$7,900. Joesph Sibley Pusch Ridge Christian Logan Franke Pusch Ridge Christian, Thackery Kanne University High School, Jayden Livingston Empire High School, Mazzy Bertram Flowing Wells High School ,Maritza Roberts Basis Tucson North, Amanda Owen Mica Mountain High School, Crista Zepeda Ramirez Sunnyside High School, Lileah Duncan Flowing Wells High School, Luna Sebastian Amphitheater High School. In addition, the Arizona Elks Association, represented by Richard Cambell, AEA South District Scholarship Chairman, awarded scholarships totaling \$7,500 to the two top boys and girls.

Our Music Plus Strings Award Program provided the following students with musical instruments.

Gisselle Lugo Acosta Flowing Wells High School Violin

Braden Scott Canyon Del Oro High School Violin

Leah Schultz Canyon Del Oro High School Violin

Charles Vasquez Flowing Wells High School Violas

Submitted by; Wayne Burns Youth Committee Chair

“Tucson Elks #385 Donates to Basketball Summer Youth Camp”

With the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 meeting and exceeding the Arizona Elks Major Projects per capita, the funds received (\$1,000.00) for this achievement were donated on June 11, 2024 to the Tucson AZ Amphitheatre High School Summer league to help with uniforms, equipment, and basketballs for the summer program.

Pictured, PER Bob Holyoak, Head Coach Ronnie Lise and ER Richard Bernard

Submitted by; John Aceves



“Tucson East Elks #2532 Flag Day at the Veterans Home”

Saturday June 15th Officers and members of Tucson East Elks Lodge 2532 celebrated Flag Day at the Arizona Veterans Home by presenting the official Flag Day Service at the home. There were approximately 30 veterans in attendance from ever branch of service there. The officers and members passed out small American flags for the veterans to wave.

Submitted by; PSP Richard “Rich” Botkin

Picture from left to right behind two veterans is PSP Rich Botkin, Loyal Knight Denise Lefkowitz, Exalted Ruler Sally Frankel, Tiler Ron Anctil, Inner Guard Arnie Wheeler, Secretary Brigid Sherbo and member Darryl Reeves.



“Tucson East Elks #2532 donates Freedom Grant to the Veterans Home”

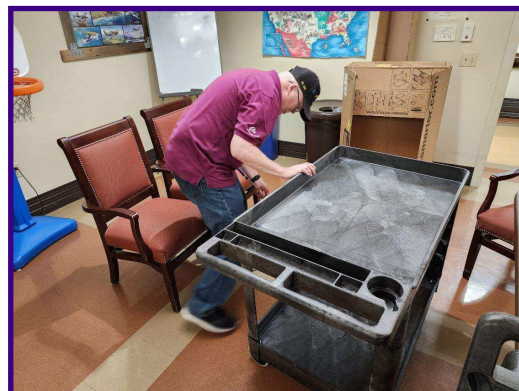
Veteran Home of Tucson, is the recipient of Tucson East 2532 Freedom Grant. They provided much needed carts and a fish tank for the memory care unit.

Submitted by: Secretary Brigid Sherbo

Pictured below; Arnie Wheeler Vet Committee Chair/Tiler, Member Bill Devoss, Exalted Ruler Sally Frankel, Secretary Brigid Sherbo, Vet Committee Co-Chair Darrell Reeves, Sam Nanez, Recreational Therapeutic Manager



Vet Committee Chair
Arnie Wheeler
Assembling a cart



“Chandler Elks #2429 Presents Eagle Scout Award”

Luke Fulton, Eagle Scout Candidate, came to ask for financial assistance with his Eagle Scout project to build mobile planters for Kids Express preschool at Chandler High School in September of 2023. Luke attended Kids Express at Chandler High School as a preschooler and went back and asked the staff what needs they had. The Director of the program advised him that they would really like to teach the preschoolers about the life cycle of plants as well as where our food comes from. So, Luke built portable planting boxes that were only 24 inches tall (perfect for the preschoolers) as well as purchased, built and installed storage units for their planting equipment and outdoor activities equipment. He was awarded his Eagle scout neckerchief and badge and then came back to the Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 to accept his Elks Eagle Scout Award.



Pictured Luke Fulton
and PER Taleen
Carpenter



Submitted by; Taleen Carpenter
PER

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957”

The Casa Grande Valley Elks donated \$2000 to the City of Casa Grande’s Swimming program to provide scholarships to students learning to swim. The funds were raised at our Golf Tournament held in April. This amount will provide 135 kids with free swimming lessons.

“Yuma Elks #476 presents Americanism Plaque”

Exalted Ruler Jim Thompson presented Kailey Sandoval her plaque in front of her classmates at Gary Knox Elementary School. Kailey won second place in the Arizona Elks Association’s Americanism Essay Contest for 5th Graders.

Submitted by; Jim Thompson, ER

Pictured;

Jim Thompson Exalted Ruler and
Kailey Sandoval



“Chandler Elks #2429 Nation of Patriot Flag Tour”

Nation of Patriot flag tour

Arizona 2024

Members from the Chandler Elks Riders join the Nation of Patriots (NOP) for the 2024 Flag Tour. The NOP escort a single flag through all 50 states, paying tribute to fallen soldiers and raising monies for our veterans. All riders are welcome to join in the ride or drive along in a car. Each state keeps the monies raised in their state for veterans in that state. Veterans must meet three requirements for eligibility and are as follows:

Must have a VA disability rating 50% or more, must have an honorable discharge, must have at least one legal dependent.

It is our honor to participate in and donate to this great cause. Stops made to pay tribute to soldiers and/or for a ceremony and stops for fundraising include: Window Rock Code Talkers Memorial (Window Rock AZ), Prescott National Veterans Cemetery/Memorial (Prescott, AZ), Winslow Elks Lodge (Winslow, AZ), Legion Post 86 (Heber/Overgaard), Kingman Elks Lodge (Kingman, AZ), Sultana Bar and Grill (yearly fundraiser with baskets and auction) in Williams, AZ. On the stops education is provided for fallen soldiers, readings of fallen soldiers and history of those soldiers, education about our Native Americans and their role in the Armed Forces.

We have many groups join in on the flag tour to include: Elks Riders, Legion Riders, Navajo Hopi Honor Riders. Collectively, the Chandler Elks Riders donated \$14,000 to the cause. Donations were made from fundraising, through the auction and personal and business checks from members.

Submitted by,

Mags Bohner, Esteemed Loyal Knight,
President Chandler Elks Riders #2429

Pictured: Left to right, front row: Mags Bohner (President Chandler Elks Riders), Camilla Delgado, Bill McAfee, Mark, Annette, Mary Like, Anthony Caniglia (N.O.P Commander, Az), Jeanette McAfee, Steve Like

Left to right, back row:

Jerry Jacot, David Horton, Macinda Horton

Service Dog of Bill McAafee – Bailey



“Lake Havasu #2399”

The Monday night dancers from Elks Lodge #2399 donated \$300 to Steele Children's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona. The hospital benefits from the support of the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP), a program that involves all Arizona Elks Lodges. Featured in the photo are the Elks Monday night dancers, with Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox and Music Coordinator Lynn Hall prominently in the center, alongside PDDGER Hank Thonnard.

Submitted by, Eva Fox



“Sun City Elks #2559 Flag Ceremony”

The Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 performed our annual Flag Day Service for members and guests. The 9 flags representing the evolution of our flag were each presented with the history of each flag. The flags were each posted by Veterans representing different branches of the military. *Submitted by; Sandy McLemore*

Pictured : Larry Howard-USAF, David Courtney-USAF, Neil Kather-USAF, Eldora Engebretson-WAC, Ron Evans- Army, Robert Wheat-ARMY, Marty Galchutt-USMC, Greg Selendic-USAF, Barbara Selendic-USAF. The escorts for each flag and Veteran Jose' Cordero-Torres-USMC and Ed Jansen-USAF.



“Sun City Elks #2559 ”

On Monday, June 24, 2024 Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 ER Bill Matthews presented a check for \$1,000.00 from the Veteran's Services Committee to Unified Arizona Veteran's Chair, Travis Burns. The donation will be used for UAV Veteran's Scholarship programs. This donation was matched by an anonymous lodge member for a total of \$2,000.00.

Pictured Exalted Ruler Bill Matthews, Veteran's Committee Chair Ellie Jenkins, Chair UAV Travis Burns, Eldora Engebretson-WAC, AZ Veteran's Hall of Fame inductee

*Submitted by;
Bill Matthews ER*



“Veterans News”



Information and Veterans News

Mary I Shaffer - Elks National Veterans Service

ED Chair - Tracy Cabell.....714 587-1070

ND Chair - John Roush.....719 313-0565

SD Chair - Linda Seggie.....520 401-3990

A Home Away from Home

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and Veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. **A Home Away from Home**

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and Veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are strategically located at Military and VA medical centers around the world, ensuring that families can be close to their loved ones during challenging times. With up to 21 suites in each Fisher House, families enjoy private bedrooms, baths and shared common spaces like kitchens, laundry facilities, dining rooms and living rooms.

On the road to 100

Fisher House Foundation recently announced it is on the road to 100 Fisher Houses that, when completed, will serve more than 1,400 military and Veteran families on a given night.

Financial relief for families

Since its inception, the Fisher House program has saved military and Veteran’s families an estimated \$610 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation. This significant financial relief allows families to focus on supporting their loved ones without the added burden of accommodation expenses.

Additional Support Programs

Hero Miles Program – Fisher House Foundation operates the Heros Miles program, which uses donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members. This initiative ensures that families can be together during critical recovery periods, regardless of the distance.

Hotels for Heros – Similarly, the Hotels for Heros program uses donated hotel points to provide family members with free stays at hotels near medical centers. This program ensures that families have a comfortable place to stay close to their loved ones without any financial strain,

Grant and scholarship programs – Beyond housing, Fisher House Foundation manages the Fisher Service Award, a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled Veterans. To date 15,000 students have received \$27,000,000 in scholarship awards, furthering the Foundations commitment to supporting military families in various ways.

By the numbers

Daily capacity: 1,300 families.

Families served: More than 500,000 since inception.

Number of lodging days offered: 12 million plus.

Scholarship awards: 15,000 students receiving \$27,000,000.

Hero Miles airline tickets provided: Over 70,000, worth nearly \$105 million.

Staying at a Fisher House – If you or someone you love is receiving care at a VA or military medical center, check to see if there is a location that can help. The criteria to stay are established locally by the hospital or installation command, so please contact the location with any questions. There is never a charge to stay at a Fisher House.



“Grand Lodge Convention 2024 Part 1”



AEA State President Sue Krausman presenting the Arizona State Flag at the Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony



Congratulations to our District Deputies

Pictured: Travis Napolitan East District, Barry (Bear) Carlile South District, William (Brad) Lucas West District and Larry Pratt, Jr. East District

ELKS
NATIONAL
VETERANS
SERVICE
COMMISSION

BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER
OF ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION

**2023-2024 VETERAN VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

ALASKA Robert M. Jones	IOWA Nina K. Steele Michael Goodwin
ARIZONA Linda Seggie Barrie Carlile, Jr.	KANSAS Stanley Willis Linda Stelzer
ARKANSAS LeRoy Dunham Susan Mattix	LOUISIANA Francis Berthelot Mark Moody
CALIFORNIA-HAWAII Samantha Arrieta Stanley R. Huls	MAINE Darelyn Kearns Barry Robertson
COLORADO Clifford Fejfar Trudy Gagas	MARYLAND-DELAWARE-D.C. Tim Perri Robert Trafton

Congratulations to Linda Seggie of Casa Adobes Lodge #2663 and Bear Carlile of Sierra Vista Lodge #2065 for their Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to David Dean of Sierra Vista Lodge #2065 for your 5 Star Award for the AEA Newsletter

Elks
usa

BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER
OF ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee
**State Association Bulletin
Contest “I” Awards 2023-2024**

5 Star Awards
Arizona, David G. Dean
Florida, Rachel A. King
Georgia, Lynda Lewis
Illinois, Elizabeth Conaway
Kansas, Carl Lindsey, Jr.
Louisiana, Buddy Harle
MD, DE, DC, Janie Swigert
Michigan, Jean Chapdelaine
Missouri, Joy Clarkson
New York, Timothy Welpe
New Jersey, Kelly Miller

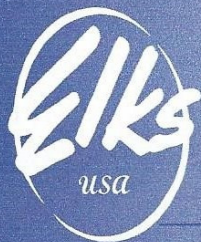
4 Star Awards
Colorado, Cynthia Wyszynski
North Carolina, Ashley Buckwell
Washington, Jen Steele

“Grand Lodge News”

JULY 2024

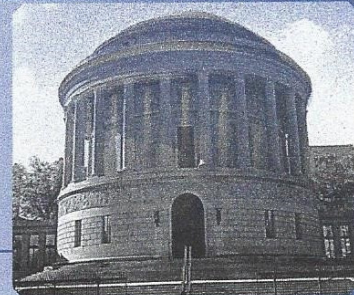
www.elks.org

Volume 59, No. 12



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share

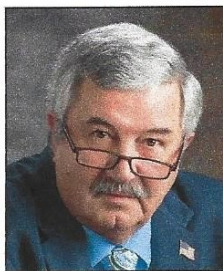


Dedicated, passionate Elks made this year a success

We celebrate the birth of the greatest nation on earth on the fourth day of this month. It is a time to reflect on all the freedoms we have enjoyed because of the vision of a small group of men and women committed to a cause.

People in this country still enjoy those same freedoms 248 years later. The enthusiasm for the cause of liberty has never been stronger. As Elks our commitment to our nation has never been stronger. Happy birthday, America—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Time flies when you are having fun. A year ago, Wanda and I began this incredible journey. This was an adventure we never envisioned but we are so glad to



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

RANDY P. SHOOK

have experienced.

The accomplishments we witnessed throughout our travels were truly remarkable. It was great to see your communities recognize that “*Elks Care—Elks Share*” and “*We Are THE Elks.*” We are very proud of your dedication to our Order.

It was great to meet new friends as well as spend time with old friends. The Elks really are one **big happy family**. Please continue to ask that relative or friend to join our family.

Wanda and I will continue to serve you as we move forward into this next Elks year, and for many more, God willing. The past year has been an adventure we will treasure forever. I would like to close by saying **thank you for everything**. We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas. It will be an exciting time.

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.



From the Editor: If anyone has pictures from Grand Lodge Convention I would appreciate it if you would submit them for next month’s newsletter. Thank you in advance.